Dormitory and 12 beds of AC Dormitory are available at Vijayawada Railway station for use of *bonafide* passengers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Under use of Bhimadole and Pulla Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh

406. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Central Railways are not adequately using Bhimadole and Pulla railway stations in West Godawari district, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether passenger trains are not stopping at these railways stations; and

(c) what steps will be taken to increase use of these two railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) On an average, 112 passengers per day and sizeable quantity of goods traffic is being dealt with at Bhimadolu Station. At Pulla Station, on an average, 60 passengers are being dealt with per day.

(b) Five pairs of Passenger and one pair of express trains at Bhimadolu Station and five pairs of Passenger trains at Pulla Station are already stopping.

(c) Bhimadolu and Pulla Stations are well connected with roads. The facilities available at present are adequate to cater to the needs of the present day passenger traffic.

बांदीकुई से आगरा तक बड़ी रेल लाइन बिछाया जाना

407. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेल मंत्रालय ने राजस्थान में बांदीकुई से आगरा तक बड़ी रेल लाइन के निर्माण की एक परियोजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की थी, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या उपर्युक्त आमान परिवर्तन के कार्य के लिए स्वीकृत राशि अन्य प्रयोजनार्थ खर्च की गई है; यदि हां, तो अन्यत्र खर्च की गई राशि कितनी है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) कार्य को बोल्ड योजना के अंतर्गत नियोजित किया गया था। कोई भी उपयुक्त प्रस्ताव प्राप्त न होने के कारण अब यह विनिश्चय किया गया है कि कार्य को रेलवे निधियों से प्रारंभ किया जाए अन्य उद्देश्य के लिए इस परियोजना से किसी प्रकार की निधि नहीं निकाली गई थी।

Completion of Kapadvanj Modesa railway line

408. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision of Rs. 10 crores was made for the Kapadvanj Modesa railway line in the last year's railway budget;

(b) whether work on the project has not yet been started;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) when the work on the project is likely to start;

(e) whether Government will fix a time-limit to complete the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Rs. 5 crs. were provided in budget of 1997-98.

(b) The work is in progress.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The work will be completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.

Opening of Divisional Office at Ahmedabad

409. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up a Railway Divisional Office at Ahmedabad (Gujarat) is under consideration of the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a categorical assurance was given in Parliament by his predecessor to this effect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Divisional Office is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Government has decided to set up a new divisions including one at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. An officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) has been positioned at Ahmedabad for smooth setting up of the proposed new division.

(b) and (c) No. Sir.

(d) The time frame can be decided after availability of suitable land and finalisation of territorial jurisdiction.

Replacement of 150 ml cups by smaller cups in South Central Railway

410. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half a million disposable cups of standard size of 150 ml each procured by the South Central Railway were surreptitiously replaced by smaller cups, thus depriving the passengers of lakhs of ruppes every day on the sale of tea and coffee to them;

(b) the extent of loss suffered by the Railways on account of this scandal and the estimated loss per day suffered by the travelling public due to short supply of tea and coffee; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the culprits in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Instances of some vendors selling coffee/tea in sub standard cups at stations and on trains have come to notice. Such vendors were fined and the sub-standard cups were seized and detroyed. Frequent checks are being conducted to prevent use of sub-standard cups by the vendors. Extent of loss cannot be estimated.

Setting up of New Division of Western Railway at Ahmedabad

411. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has announced for opening up a 'New Division of Western Railway at Ahmedabad previously';

(b) whether nothing has been initiated by Government for opening the Division by way of creating construction of building and creating of other infrastructure there;

(c) whether there is any rethinking on the part of the present Government on this subject; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Government has decided to set up 8 new divisions including one at Ahmedabad.

(b) The inaugural function of Ahmedabad division was held on 10.3.96. An Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) has been positioned at Ahmedabad for smooth setting up of the proposed new division. The issue regarding acquisition of adequate land in a convenient location from the State Government of Gujarat is being actively pursued.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The time frame can be decided after availability of suitable land and finalisation of territorial jurisdiction.

Modernisation of Indian Railways

412. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government propose to allow private participation in modernisation and technological upgradation of the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railway (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A statement is attached [*See* Appendix *184* Annexue No. *14*]